

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02534 300724Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4142
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SW, ILO, PINR
SUBJECT: ILO CONFERENCE: GOS FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND SWEDISH
UNDERSECRETARY OF LABOR ELIASSON'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: A) STOCKHOLM 2426, B) STOCKHOLM 1570

1. SUMMARY: SWEDISH GOVERNMENT DELEGATE TO THE ILO
CONFERENCE BERT ISACSSON WILL BE VISITING WASHINGTON IN
EARLY JULY WITH UNDERSECRETARY OF LABOR ELIASSON, AT
WHICH TIME HE AND ELIASSON INTEND TO GIVE BOTH THE USG
AND THE AFL-CIO A THOROUGH BRIEFING ON SWEDISH THINKING
REGARDING THE ILO AND HOPE TO GET IN RETURN AT LEAST A
PRELIMINARY U.S. REACTION TO THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE. THE
GOS COULD BEST BE DESCRIBED AS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS DEVELOPING FAVORABLE TRENDS IN THE
ILO. ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ISACSSON
IS APPENDED (REFTEL A). END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 02534 300724Z

2. BERT ISACSSON, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION
OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SWEDISH GOVERNMENT
DELEGATE TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE, WILL BE VISITING
WASHINGTON JULY 4-9 IN THE COMPANY OF UNDER-
SECRETARY OF LABOR INGEMAR ELIASSON. SWEDISH LABOR
ATTACHE BJORN PETTERSON HAS ALREADY ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS
WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

AND THE AFL-CIO. ISACSSON STATES THAT HE AND UNDERSECRETARY ELIASSON HOPE TO HAVE A FULL AND FRANK DISCUSSION ON THE RECENT HAPPENINGS IN GENEVA AND THE MORE GENERAL SUBJECT OF THE FUTURE OF THE ILO AND THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. REAFFILIATION. ISACSSON MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS REGARDING THE ILO AT A MEETING WITH THE LABOR ATTACHE ON JUNE 28.

3. IN GENERAL TERMS HE IS ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS OF THIS YEAR'S ILO CONFERENCE. THE GOS IS PARTICULARLY SATISFIED WITH THE NON-ADOPTION OF THE SYRIAN-LIBYAN RESOLUTION ON ISRAELI TREATMENT OF ARAB WORKERS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ISACSSON ATTRIBUTES ITS NON-ADOPTION TO A GROWING SENSE AMONG MANY THIRD WORLD DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM SUB-SAHARA AFRICA, THAT THE WHOLE ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION IS OCCUPYING MUCH TOO MUCH OF THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE AT ILO CONFERENCES AND A GROWING RESENTMENT OF WHAT ARE PERCEIVED AS UNREASONABLE ARAB DEMANDS AND THE OVERBEARING MANNER OF SOME ARAB DELEGATES.

4. ISACSSON IS NOT WILLING TO SAY MUCH ABOUT STRUCTURE, BECAUSE MEETINGS ARE STILL GOING ON IN GENEVA AND THE SWEDISH DELEGATE HAS NOT YET RETURNED TO STOCKHOLM. HE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE STRUCTURE QUESTION IN WASHINGTON.

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 02534 300724Z

5. ISACSSON EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE AT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD'S OUTSPOKEN INSISTENCE IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD DELEGATES THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE ILO HAVE GOT TO DECIDE WHAT THE ORGANIZATION IS ALL ABOUT AND THEN GET ON WITH IT IF THE ILO IS TO SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE. ISACSSON STATES THAT HE AND OTHER SWEDES SUPPORT BLANCHARD FULLY ON THIS.

6. ISACSSON FURNISHED ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE AS FOLLOWS:
BERT ISACSSON, BORN 1931, B.A. (UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN). SECRETARY AT THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS 1959-62, FIRST SECRETARY AT THE SWEDISH ASSOCIATION FOR NORDIC COOPERATION 1963-65, PRESS ATTACHE AT THE SWEDISH EMBASSY, HELSINKI 1965-68, HEAD OF SECTION, MINISTRY OF LABOR AND HOUSING, 1968 (INTERNATIONAL AND IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS), HEAD OF DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF LABOR, 1971, DIRECTOR 1977.
GOVERNMENT DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE SINCE 1974, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 1976 AND 1977, CHAIRMAN 1978.

7. KARIN ISACSSON, B.L. (UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN)
SECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND AT UPPSALA
UNIVERSITY 1958-65, HEAD OF SECTION 1969, HEAD OF
DIVISION (WORK PERMITS AND RESIDENCE PERMITS) 1974,
AT THE SWEDISH IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION BOARD,
1976 APPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
ON A NEW ALIEN'S LAW.

8. IT MIGHT BE ADDED THAT ISACSSON IS AN ACCOMPLISHED
ORGANIST WHO ENJOYS PLAYING IN HIS SPARE TIME.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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